

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas Receives National Award for Child Support Initiative

TWC and Office of Attorney General Recognized by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), received the Commissioner’s Award for Innovative Partnership from the Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Child Support Enforcement. The OAG accepted the award on behalf of the State of Texas at the 17th National Child Support Enforcement Training Conference held in Washington DC September 9-12 for the Texas Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices Project. The project is designed to assist parents who are not working and not able to pay child support with an innovative combination of employment and support services tied to increased monitoring and accountability.

“Participants have been able to fulfill their commitments to their families and become more self-sufficient,” TWC Chair and Commissioner Diane Rath said. “Through this collaboration with the OAG and the local court systems, this project has achieved significant results.”

Since the pilot project began two years ago, more than \$2.6 million has been collected to date from 1,261 project participants. Approximately 60 percent of those who participated in the NCP program found jobs, and among those, 50 percent remained employed.

“With the help of NCP Choices, Texas parents are empowered by jobs and the ability to provide much-needed support for their children,” said Attorney General Greg Abbott. “Our partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission helps parents, children--and the taxpayers, who benefit when parents take financial responsibility for their kids. We will continue developing innovative solutions that help Texas families.”

The custodial parents associated with NCP Choices participants were 10 percent less likely to rely on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, which assist low-income individuals and families. County courts in Bexar, Galveston, Brazoria, Hidalgo, Tarrant and El Paso counties participated in the pilot-stage of the program.

The U.S. Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) is a federal/state/local partnership to help families by promoting family self-sufficiency and child well-being.

For more information on the Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices Project, also contact Janece Rolfe at the OAG at 512-460-6414.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.